

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A handheld calculator device for calculating periodic payments on a loan comprising
  - a. means for selecting a type of loan;
  - b. means for selecting a cost of the item being purchased or a loan amount;
  - c. means for selecting a loan period or number of periodic payments;
  - d. means for selecting whether there is a down payment and if so, a down payment amount;
  - e. means for selecting an interest rate;
  - f. means for calculating the periodic payment based on the selected information.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the type of loan is selected from the group consisting of home loan, automobile loan, automobile lease, bank loan, and credit card loan.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the loan period is selected in units of months or years.
4. The device of claim 1 comprising a desktop computer, laptop computer, personal data assistant, web server, or cellular telephone device.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein a series of questions are displayed on a screen of a user's computer, personal data assistant, or cellular telephone device, the series of questions comprising
  - a. total interest paid over a period?;
  - b. the number of years or months during which payments will be due?;
  - c. the interest rate?;
  - d. the periodic payment in units of dollars and cents?;wherein upon receiving answers to three of the questions, the fourth question is automatically answered and the automatic answer is displayed on the screen.

6. The device of claim 1 comprising voice simulation means and for receiving spoken responses and calculating payments based on the spoken responses.
7. A method of calculating loan factors comprising generating a series of questions, displaying the questions on a user device, receiving answers to the questions from a user, and calculating a loan factor based on the answers to the questions from the user.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the loan factors are one or more selected from the group consisting of
  - a. type of loan;
  - b. whether payments are weekly, monthly, annual, or another type of period;
  - c. number of payments;
  - d. term of loan;
  - e. interest rate;
  - f. periodic payment in units of dollars and cents; and
  - g. total interest to be paid over the term.
9. The method of claim 7 comprising processing voice input information regarding answers to the questions and generating voice simulated responses.